Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the title to read:

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR INTERPRETING MULTIPLE-TERM QUERIES

USING DATABASE-INDEPENDENT AND DATABASE-DEPENDENT SCORING

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 14 to delete the word "uses" in the

second sentence, as follows:

> The present invention is directed to a system and method
> for generating interpretations for multiple-term queries submitted
> to a search interface for retrieving information from a database.
> The system may use ~~uses~~ a combination of context-independent
> and contextual evaluation to generate interpretations for multiple-
> term queries relative to the database being searched. The items in
> the database may be, for example, news articles, product
> descriptions, genome sequences, and time-series data. The
> collection need not be limited to a uniform type of item, but could
> be a combination of different types of items. For example, on a
> World Wide Web-based shopping site, the database may be a
> product database that includes product descriptions of a number of
> different types of products, product reviews, product selection
> guides, etc.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 1 by changing the misspelled

word "it" in the second sentence, and replace it with the word "edit" as follows:

> In an example embodiment, the context-independent score
> for a candidate single-term interpretation is equal to the edit
> distance between the candidate single-term interpretation and the
> query term from which it was generated. The edit distance is
> measured as the total number of ~~it~~ <u>edit</u> operations applied to the
> query term to generate the candidate single-term interpretation.
> For example, the edit distance between *blleu* and *blue* is 2, since
> there is one deletion and one transposition.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 24 and continuing onto page 18,

(1) to delete the extra periods after the first sentence; (2) to add a period at the end of the last

sentence and (3) to add "Indicated in step 19" at the beginning of the paragraph to reflect the

Amendment to the Drawings, as follows:

> Indicated in step 19, in~~In~~ some embodiments, there may be multiple semantic approaches for determining which items in the database are associated with a particular candidate multiple-term interpretation. ~~.—.~~ The size of the result set for a candidate multiple-term interpretation will vary depending on the semantic approach that is used. For example, using disjunctive semantics for determining which items match a candidate multiple-term interpretation will often lead to a larger associated item set than using conjunctive semantics. Partial match semantics, e.g., considering an item to be in a candidate multiple term interpretation's associated item set if it matches a sufficient fraction of the terms in that interpretation generally falls between disjunctive and conjunctive semantics. The particular semantic approach that is applied can affect the contextual score because the number of associated items in the result set for a candidate multiple-term interpretation is an important factor in the contextual score in certain embodiments. In some embodiments, the type of semantic approach used is itself factored into the contextual score for a candidate multiple-term interpretation. In some embodiments, the number of terms from a candidate multiple-term interpretation matched in the items in the result set or some other information measure reflective of the semantic approach used may be the dominant factor in determining the contextual score. For example, in an embodiment in which partial matching can be used to determine a contextual score for a candidate multiple term interpretation, a rule can be implemented such that combinations that match a maximal number of terms in the candidate multiple-term interpretation are preferred over those that match fewer terms but return more associated results in the database.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 4 to add "shown at step 17" in the first

line after "pruning phase", to reflect the Amendment to the Drawings, as follows:

> In some embodiments, a pruning phase, shown at step 17, eliminates candidate single-term interpretation from consideration. As a result, the pruning phase may reduce the number of candidate multiple interpretations that are generated and improve the efficiency of the query process.